



The Visitor's Bureau and Chamber of Commerce in Hertford welcomes visitors and residents alike.

Executive Summary

The Hertford Pedestrian Plan is designed as a guiding document to improve the walkability of the Town through specific projects, policies and programs to make the Town more attractive, comfortable, and safer for pedestrians. The Hertford Pedestrian Plan is funded by a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Division (NCDOT DBPT) and matching funds from the Town of Hertford. More than just a project list, the Plan is a tool to create a more pedestrian-friendly atmosphere through recommended programs, policies, projects, and plans. The Plan also provides a description of priorities, partnerships, cost estimates, and funding sources to help the Town implement its recommendations.

The goals of the Hertford Pedestrian Plan were a result of a visioning exercise that the stakeholder committee participated in to identify the top priorities that they would like to see in the Plan. The results were as follows:

1. **Improved pedestrian access** to schools through more pedestrian connections and a stronger sense of safety in the area. More pedestrian connections may include providing a pedestrian connection between the High School and Elementary school, and improving connections to the school from residential areas both in town and outside of town, and also to Hertford's downtown.
2. **Improved health of the community** through programs and projects that may promote walking and more physical activity. Programs may include encouragement at schools (such as a Safe Routes to School program), work places, and recreation facilities. Projects may include greenway facilities and/or an exercise/jogging path.
3. **Capital improvements** which will boost walking and pedestrian safety. Capital improvements may include creating trails that are interesting, attractive, and fun to walk; continuing beautification efforts and improved landscaping; and providing more green areas for rest and relaxation.
4. **Better connectivity** in town to connect residential areas, downtown, businesses, and the recreation center to the south of downtown. Better connectivity is both a result of projects that make walking from one place to another easier but that also improve the experience of walking. Projects that will better connect destinations in the Town may include providing a pedestrian-way from downtown to the recreation center, and a pedestrian-way between the two schools in town. Other projects should focus on improving a pedestrian's sense of security in town and providing more ADA-accessible facilities.
5. **Increased sense of community** measured by more pedestrian traffic downtown, increased use of downtown stores, and more visitors to the town. In addition, the Pedestrian Plan should be the result of a full community involvement effort which

incorporates a variety of viewpoints. Efforts to increase the sense of community should also result in children and residents having a higher regard for their community and downtown in particular.

Plan Process

In December 2006, the Town of Hartford hired the Louis Berger Group, Inc., a national transportation engineering and planning firm, to prepare the Plan. The Plan preparation process was a year-long effort, which was guided throughout by input from a stakeholder committee (made up of town staff and local citizen representatives), Town staff, and other public involvement efforts. The Stakeholder Committee met four times during the course of the planning process, and provided input on the goals for the plan, projects, and programs. Its members were as follows:

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| ◆ Juanita J. Bailey, Cooperative Extension | ◆ Linda O'Connell, Perquimans Trailblazers |
| ◆ Dick Calogero, Historic Hartford, Inc. | ◆ Brandon Shoaf, Town of Hartford |
| ◆ John Christensen, Town of Hartford | ◆ Dwayne Stallings, Perquimans County Schools |
| ◆ JoAnn Morris, Commissioner, Town of Hartford | ◆ Sue Weimar, County Commissioner |
| | ◆ Chris Wharton, Town of Hartford |

In addition to a stakeholder committee, the Plan's public involvement process also included an Open House held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 and a survey was distributed from March 2007 to May 2007.

Analysis

As part of the Plan preparation process, the Louis Berger Group performed the following analysis of the Town's demographics, community concerns and needs (based on public input), and existing conditions. The demographic analysis addressed characteristics which provide a better understanding of the Town's travel behavior and preferences; these are:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◆ Past and Current Population | ◆ Income and Poverty Status |
| ◆ Race | ◆ Household Vehicle Availability |
| ◆ Age | ◆ Work Commute |
| ◆ Educational Attainment | ◆ To-Work Travel Time |

The analysis of the Town's existing conditions evaluated existing roads, sidewalks, land uses and zoning, and major destinations such as schools, shopping areas, and recreation facilities. An inventory of the Town's existing sidewalk was conducted on August 13, 2007; results of the inventory are shown in Figure 1.



Woodard's Pharmacy is a Hartford hallmark, and its distinctive sign contributes to the sense of community in the Town.

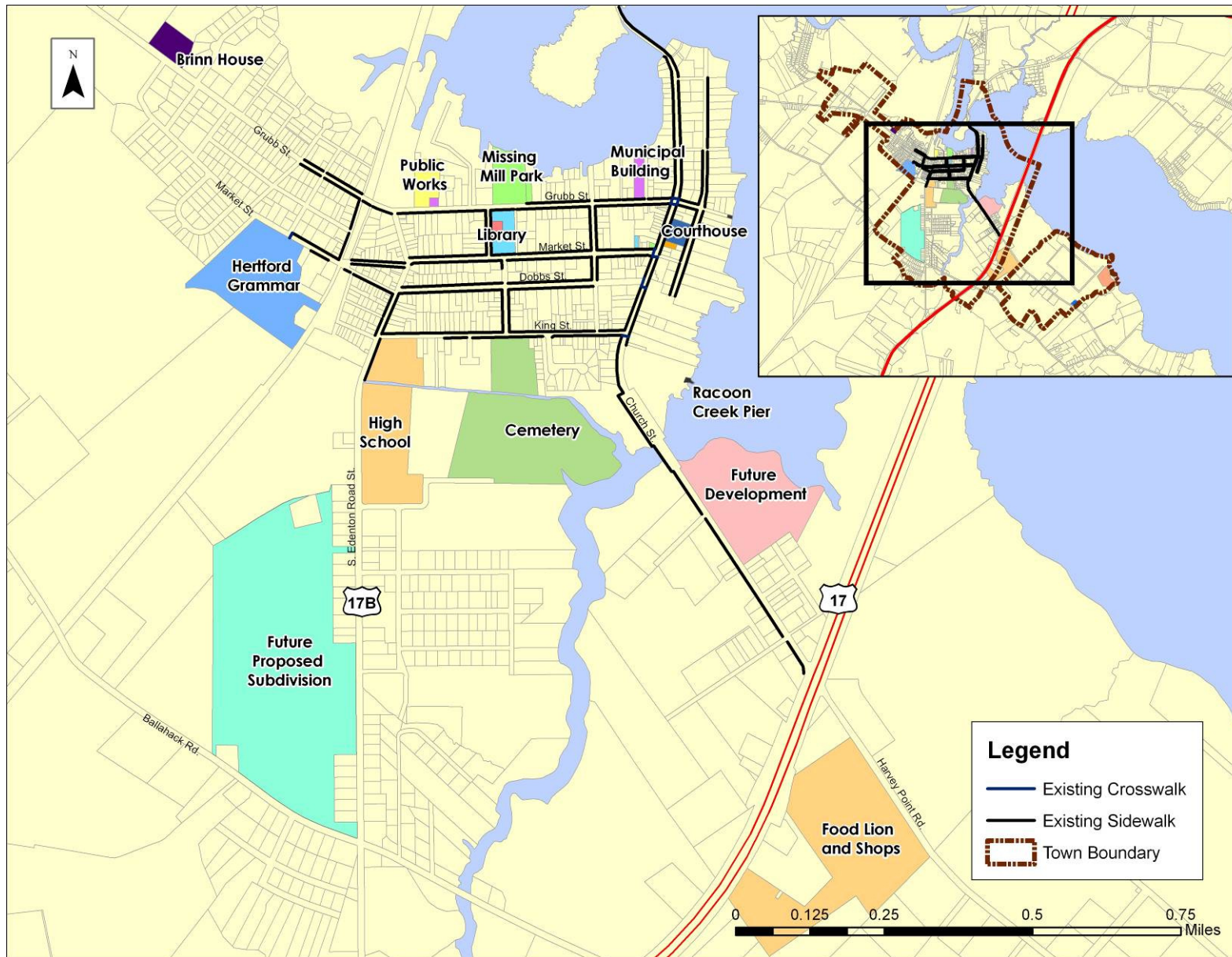


Figure 1. Map of major roads and existing sidewalks and crosswalks in Hertford.

In addition, the Town's existing plans and policies were examined in order to identify potential plan recommendations or adjustments in policies that could strengthen the pedestrian facilities in future construction. The following documents were reviewed:

- ◆ Historic Hertford North Carolina Development Strategic Plan (2001)
- ◆ Hertford Corridor Plan Phase I: US 17 (Draft 2007)
- ◆ NCDOT TIP
- ◆ Town's Subdivision Ordinance

Program and policy recommendations were generated from the analysis of the Town's existing plans and policies, as well as based on the needs that were identified as part of the public input process.

To assist with analysis, five focus areas were created in order to target specific needs in the Town:

- ◆ Intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road and points south
- ◆ Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School
- ◆ Missing Mill Park Area
- ◆ Raccoon Creek Pier and Canoe Launch Area
- ◆ Winfall Connections and S-Bridge

These focus areas are also shown in Figure 2. Project recommendations were developed from these focus areas.

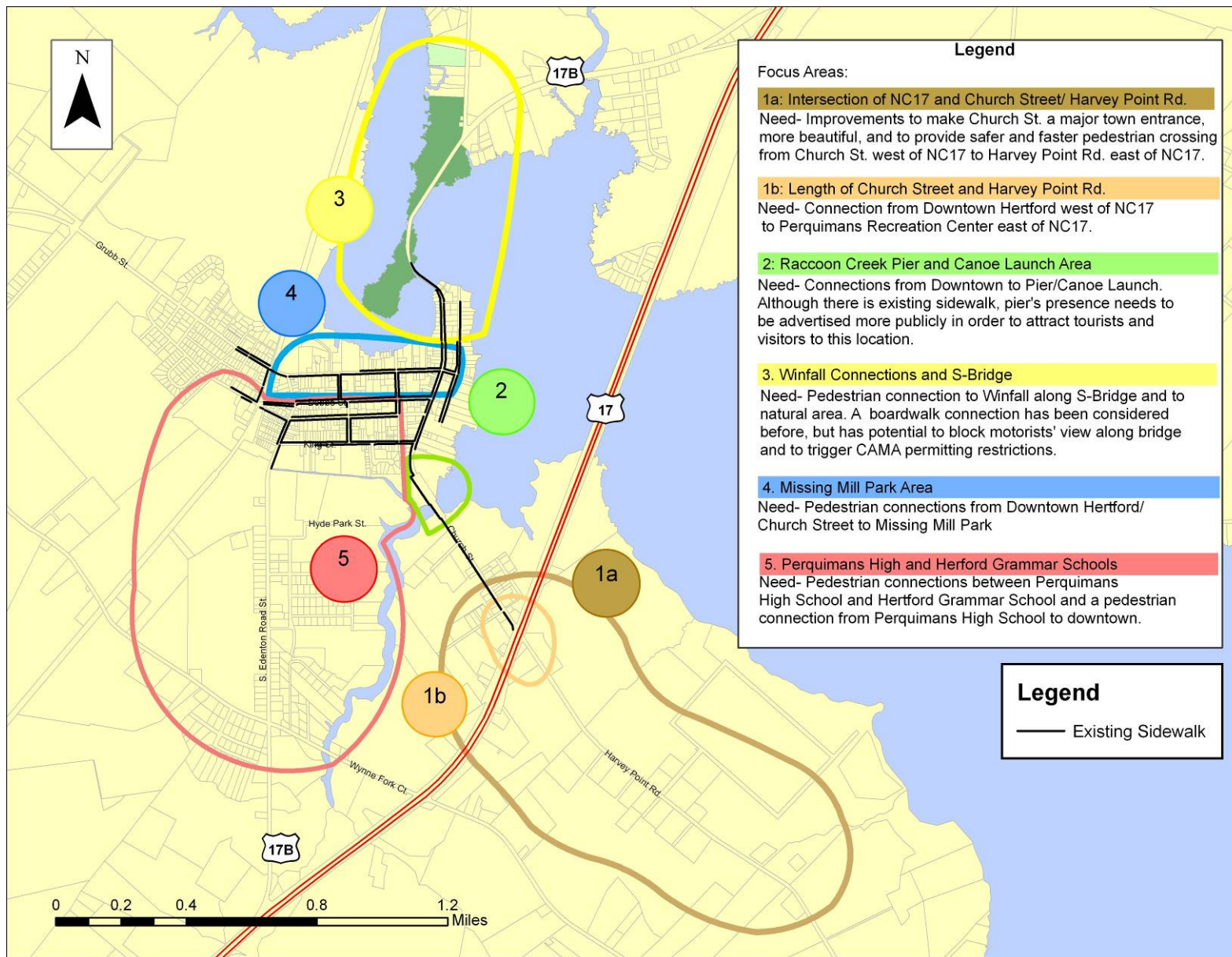


Figure 2. Focus areas for targeted projects in the Pedestrian Plan.

Recommendations

The Plan provides recommendations for projects, programs, and policies which, upon implementation, will make the Town more pedestrian-friendly. Recommendations were divided into short-term (0 – 5 years in the future), mid-term (6 – 10 years), and long-term (more than 10 years in the future) actions. Priorities were developed based on the following criteria:

- ◆ **Safety** – refers to actual or perceived threat to pedestrian safety by nearby traffic. It was qualitatively measured by the crashes near a location or a perceived sense of danger by users as reported by staff, stakeholders, and the public during open houses and the survey.
- ◆ **Demand** – indicates the amount of perceived potential use for the project either as a result of input by the stakeholders, public, or staff, or by observations during field visits. A location had a high level of need/demand if many comments were made about it at the open house or on the survey, or if several pedestrians were observed at the location during field visits.
- ◆ **Accessibility/Connectivity** – refers to the potential for the project to complete a route from one major destination to another. Frequently, the project may connect two existing blocks of sidewalk that were previously separated by a long stretch of missing sidewalk.
- ◆ **Ease of Construction** – qualitatively measures how feasible it will be to construct a project. While this factor takes into account cost to a certain extent, it also includes necessary right-of-way, permitting, and potential negotiations with other agencies and jurisdictions that may be necessary to construct the project.
- ◆ **Cost** – qualitatively measures the potential cost of a project, mostly as a function of length alone.
- ◆ **Recreation vs. Transportation Need** – indicates whether a project will serve a transportation or recreation need. A transportation need is one that connects users from one major destination to another, especially if they are necessary destinations such as schools, grocery stores, banks, and work locations. A project which serves a recreation need is one that is solely intended for use as an exercise route, such as a loop trail around a lake, or a scenic destination.

A summary of the recommendations are provided in the following tables, and Figure 3 shows a map of the proposed projects by priority. As part of an implementation program, the Plan also provides general cost estimates for each project recommendation, and potential partners that the Town could work with to assist with its projects and programs.



Figure 3. Project recommendations identified by priority.

Table 1. Short Term Recommendations (0 - 5 years).

Projects			
Reference Number	Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
1	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements at Intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Historic Hertford
3	Sidewalk on the west side of Harvey Point Road from the intersection of US 17 to the access road for the Perquimans Recreation Center	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, NCDOT, Developers
9	Sidewalk on the west side of Edenton Street Road from the intersection with Ballahack Road to the Perquimans High School	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Perquimans County Schools, Developers
10	Sidewalk on the east side of Edenton Street Road from the intersection with Ballahack Road to the Perquimans High School	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Perquimans County Schools, Developers
11	Sidewalk on the north side of Wynne Fork Road from the intersection with Edenton Street Road to US 17	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Developers
12	Improvements at the intersection of US 17 and Wynne Fork Road to accommodate pedestrians safely	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT
13	Sidewalk on both sides of Wynne Fork Road from existing residential development to the intersection with US 17	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Developers
14	Sidewalk to Missing Mill Park along Church Street from end of existing sidewalk to park entrance	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Hertford Parks Facilities
15	Provide pedestrian crossing between Missing Mill Park and Tennis Courts	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Hertford Parks Facilities, Hertford Seniors' Center
18	Sidewalk on east side of Church Street from existing sidewalk to the pier	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Hertford Parks Facilities

Table 1 continued. Short Term Recommendations (0 – 5 years).

Programs		
Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
Self-guided Walking Tour	Hertford Planning Dept.	Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Historic Hertford, Main Street Program
Safe Routes to School Program	Hertford Planning Dept.	Perquimans County Schools, Hertford Grammar School, PTA, Albemarle COG, NCDOT
Annual 5K	Hertford Trailblazers	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau
Policies		
Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
Require new development to construct sidewalk and connect to existing sidewalk.	Hertford Planning Dept. – will require Town Council approval	NCDOT and Developers
Require all new signals to include pedestrian signal heads and crosswalks.	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts. – will require Town Council approval	NCDOT and developers
Implement policies that will assure safe pedestrian access through parking lots	Hertford Planning Dept. – will require Town Council approval	Developers, Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau

Table 2. Mid-Term Recommendations (6 – 10 years).

Projects			
Reference Number	Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
2	Sidewalk on the east side of Church Street from existing sidewalk to US 17	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Developers, Hertford Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, NCDOT
8	Greenway linking Perquimans High School to Hertford Grammar School	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Hertford Parks Facilities, Hertford Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation
17	Sidewalk on the north side of Church Street from existing sidewalk to Missing Mill Park entrance	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Hertford Seniors' Center

Table 2 continued. Mid-Term Recommendations (6 – 10 years).

Projects			
Reference Number	Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
21	Sidewalk from residential neighborhoods along Grubb Street to connect to Missing Mill Park (Nates Drive to existing sidewalk)	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau, Hertford Seniors' Center
22	Sidewalk on north side of Market Street from the intersection with Grubb Street to the Hertford Grammar School	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau
Programs			
Description		Responsibility	Potential Partners
Walking/Running Trail with Mile Markers and Exercise Stations		Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation
Connections to the Blueway		Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation, Historic Hertford, Main Street Program
Police Education		Hertford Police Department	Hertford Police, NCDOT
Pedestrian Counts on Major Thoroughfares		Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Albemarle Commission
Policies			
Description		Responsibility	Potential Partners
Require new development to set aside land for greenways		Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts. – will require City Council approval	Developers, Perquimans Trailblazers
Implement policies that encourage mixed-use and other pedestrian-friendly developments		Hertford Planning Dept. – will require Town Council approval	Developers, Hertford Main Street Program, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau

Table 3. Long Term Recommendations (10 or more years).

Projects			
Reference Number	Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
4	Sidewalk on the south side of the access road to the Perquimans Recreation Center	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans County Parks and Recreation
5	Sidewalk on the east side of Harvey Point Road from the intersection of US 17 to the access road for the Perquimans Recreation Center	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans County Parks and Recreation, NCDOT
6	Boardwalk along the Perquimans riverfront from Downtown to the Recreation Center	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation, Hertford Parks Facilities, NCDOT
7	Greenway along "wetland" behind High School into town (Jenny's Gut area/cemetery)	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation, Perquimans County Schools
16	Greenway/boardwalk along riverfront from Missing Mill Park to Town Municipal Building/Boat Ramp	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation
19	Sidewalk along west side of S-bridge and Causeway/US 17	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT
20	Boardwalk adjacent to S-bridge and Causeway/US 17	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Perquimans Trailblazers, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation, NCDOT
Projects			
Reference Number	Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
23	Sidewalk on both sides of Dobbs St. from Church Street to Covent Garden Street.	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	Historic Hertford, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau
Programs			
Description		Responsibility	Potential Partners
Sidewalk Construction Program		Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Developers

Table 3 continued. Long Term Recommendations (10 or more years).

Programs		
Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
Sidewalk Maintenance Program	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Developers
Intersection Improvement Program	Hertford Planning and Public Works Depts.	NCDOT, Developers
Policies		
Description	Responsibility	Potential Partners
Implement connectivity requirements.	Hertford Planning Dept. – will require Town Council approval	Developers, Chamber of Commerce/Visitor's Bureau

Summary

Already, Hertford has many of the elements necessary for a more walkable community. With careful planning, deliberate steps, and persistence, Hertford can become a more pedestrian-friendly community. The Town's next steps should begin to immediately address the short-term priority program, policy, and project recommendations. At the same time, the Town should also start to lay the groundwork for the longer term recommendations by mentioning them to potential partners and starting now to budget for projects in the future. Most importantly, the Town should continue its efforts to raise awareness about the importance of making the community more walkable in order to continue to grow support for more pedestrian improvements and programs. Residents, visitors, and local leaders should be familiar with the economic, health, and environmental benefits of a community in which there is less dependence on autos and more reliance on foot travel as not only a form of recreation, but also as a form of transportation.